

alarming symptoms till about an hour before he died, on the 20th January, when he complained of excruciating pain in the abdomen.

On inspection after death, the small intestines were found so knotted together that they could not be traced: the large intestine was much shortened, and not a vestige of the sigmoid flexure existed. The rectum was much increased in capacity.—*Ibid.*

11. *Enormous Dilatation of the Stomach.*—A remarkable example of this has been communicated to the Medical Society of Toulouse by M. SERAIN. It occurred in a man thirty-six years of age, a great eater, and who selected for his food the most indigestible and substantial articles, and drank the strongest liquors. He had been affected for eight or nine years with copious and frequent vomitings, and was greatly emaciated. He died of influenza. On examination after death, the stomach was found enormously distended, and occupying the whole abdomen; its form natural. The diameter of its greater curvature was three feet two inches. It contained ten pounds of sanguineous fluid, and its parietes were three lines thick.—*Journ. de Med. et de Chirurg. Prat.* August, 1838.

12. *Researches relative to the causes of sudden death.*—The opinion is still entertained by most physicians that apoplexy is the most frequent cause of sudden death. M. ALPHONSE DEVERGIE, who has the medical direction of la Morgue, the place where the bodies of unknown persons who die suddenly in the streets of Paris are carried, has endeavoured to ascertain how far this opinion is founded in truth, and has found that sudden death from an affection of the brain is rare. Of forty cases which he has examined, he has found four only in which death resulted solely from an affection of the brain; three in which there was congestion of the brain and spinal marrow; and twelve in which the lungs and brain were simultaneously affected. Sudden death from affection of the lungs alone is the most common. M. D. met with twelve cases of this out of the forty; and if to these we add the twelve examples of sudden death in which the brain and lungs were both affected, we shall have twenty-four cases out of forty in which the lungs were affected in cases of sudden death. Death from affection of the heart is the most rare. M. D. met with it but three times.

It results from these researches that sudden deaths are occasioned, arranged according to the order of their frequency, 1, from an affection of the lungs; 2, of the lungs and brain; 3, of the brain and spinal marrow; 4, from hemorrhage; 5, from an affection of the heart. It is consequently an error to regard apoplexy, that is, circumscribed cerebral hemorrhage, as the most common cause of sudden deaths; since of forty cases, M. D. has observed an apoplectic collection of blood but once. Sanguineous congestions of the meninges should not be ranked among cerebral hemorrhages. M. D. has further ascertained that sudden deaths are much more frequent in winter, and more common in men than women. Among the forty deaths noted, but five were of females; and finally, that sudden deaths occur principally in persons from 40 to 50, and from 60 to 70 years of age. *Bulletin Gén. de Therapeutique*, August, 1838.

13. *Purulent Discharges from the Bladder and Rectum in Hepatic Diseases, &c.* The July No. (1837,) of the *Quarterly Journal of the Calcutta Medical and Physical Society*, contains an interesting memoir on this subject, by J. MOUAT, Esq. The author remarks that purulent deposits have been known from very remote antiquity; instances having been mentioned by Galen, Scultetus, Paré, Belloste, Quesnay, Butnar, and others, in which the sudden disappearance of abscess has been followed by evacuations of pus from the bladder and rectum. Purulent depositions from these organs have always been attributed to the direct opening of the abscess either into the intestines, gall-bladder, ureters, &c.; but Dr. Mouat's observations have induced him to believe, that in many cases, no such communication has occurred, these discharges being depositions or excretions in the fecal or urinary passage. He proposed to illustrate this by cases bearing upon the point in question. That this occurrence in hepatic abscess should not have been recorded, is no reason why it should not exist; indeed in the present

cases the observation was made accidentally. The author quotes the abscesses which form after fractures, amputations, wounds of the head, &c. as somewhat analogous, for he considers these to act as derivatives from the original seat of the disease; and he asks, why a similar event should not take place in hepatic abscess. He then adduces the known efforts of the system in relieving itself when any of its principal functions are impeded in their natural action, as evidenced in the metastasis which take place in various diseases, and which, however explained, must be allowed to exist. The author mentions also the existence of this in the veins of several people who have died of extensive abscess, as mentioned by Andral and Alison, and the case of hepatic abscess, related by Mr. Twining, where pus was found in the right ventricle of the heart. We may look, therefore, he observes, to the vascular system as the probable cause of the removal and subsequent secretion of the matter in the cases which form the subject of his paper. The Doctor then gives thirteen cases of Europeans affected with liver abscess in which pus was passed, by stool in 10, by urine in 11, by vomiting in 1, by expectoration in 4: of these 7 died and the rest recovered. On dissection of those who died, no trace of communication was discovered between the abscess and any of the outlets through which the matter had made its way; by analogy the author concludes that those who recovered were similar cases. In two instances the disease was complicated with diseased veins, having the pathognomic symptoms of Beri-beri. In almost all the above-mentioned cases, the discharge of pus afforded great relief to the hepatic disease: the swelling of the side diminished, and the patient was easier. In those which were cured, the improvement produced by the discharges was permanent. It appeared almost critical. The discharges in several instances were simultaneous with the action of mercury on the system. Dr. M. remarks, that, although in many instances of dysentery and hepatitis there is found extensive disorganization notwithstanding the most free action of mercury, nevertheless, he has observed the remission of acute disease is generally synchronous with pyalism, and the appearance of pus always tends to quiet the constitutional disturbance and alleviate urgent symptoms.

In an appendix the author remarks upon the distinction usually drawn between phlegmasia dolens and phlebitis, and observes, that in the cases brought to his notice, the symptoms of both have been conjoined; whence he is led to believe them only varieties of the same affection, both as to violence and the order of vessels and tissue implicated, as well as some peculiarity of action in the vessels themselves, as seen in the application of blisters, where the discharge is generally watery and limpid, yet in some cases it becomes a gelatinous mass. Dr. Mouat in this part of his communication details the experiments made by Mr. McGregor, of the 39th Regiment, upon the matter discharged in one of the cases related in the paper. These consisted of the usual processes with sulphuric, nitric, and muriatic acids. That gentleman admits the well known uncertainty of the results which attended experiments of this nature, and the impossibility of ascertaining, exactly, the distinction between pus and mucus, but that, as far as he could judge, the deposits submitted to his experiments undoubtedly were pus.

Dr. Macdonald observes, that in the course of the experiments which he made upon these reports, he observed, that the pus taken from the breast of a native woman six months pregnant, when dropped into several boiling solutions, coagulated. In a solution, carbonate of potash and ammonia, a perfect coagulum was obtained; and in muriate of ammonia, a very consistent coagulum took place from very watery pus.

Some blood taken from the woman above-mentioned presented upon the under side of the coagulum some discoloured spots. These spots ran towards the centre of the clot. In the clot last obtained some of these spots became converted into an excavated scab, having the appearance of lymph or pus dried. The rounded part in both cases looked like tubercle, or the masses described by Carswell as appearing in the blood in the spleen of tubercular subjects.

14. *Results of Re-vaccination in Silesia.*—Dr. AGGENS practised re-vaccination on 962 persons, during the year 1836. The operation succeeded perfectly in 822 of these cases; in 68, the pustules did not exhibit a mature or complete development; and in the remaining 72, no effect whatever was produced by the punctures.

In many cases, the regular and characteristic vaccine pustule made its appearance as early as the third, and had acquired its full size by the fifth or sixth day. In general, the author remarked a more decided reaction in the lymphatic system, than usually happens after a first vaccination. Often did the patient, in the course of two or three hours after the operation, begin to experience a smarting sensation along the arm and in the armpit of the affected side. During the period of suppuration, the arm not unfrequently swelled considerably, and the system became somewhat feverish. But the pustules resulting from re-vaccination never exhibited *cette belle coloration perlée* of those produced by the first operation: they were of a grayish hue. On the whole, too, their progress was decidedly more rapid, more especially in their last stage, or that of drying and desquamation. In some cases, in which no regular or characteristic pustules were formed, the punctures became nevertheless surrounded with an areola of inflammatory redness.—*Med. Chirurg. Rev. from Pfaffs Mittheilungen.*

15 *Results of Re-vaccination in the Prussian Army during 1836.*—The entire number of persons re-vaccinated was 42,124. Of these, 32,635, exhibited the cicatrices of a former operation on their arms. In 6,543 persons, the cicatrices were unsatisfactory; and in 2,840 there were no traces at all of them.

In the re-vaccinations of this year, regular vaccine pustules or vesicles were formed in 18,136 instances; in 9,940 they were of irregular or imperfect development.

In 14,048 the operation failed in producing any effect; but on repeating it a second time, it took effect in 1,569 cases, and again failed in 8,205 cases.

The number of pustules induced, varied from one to thirty, in different individuals.

Among all the persons re-vaccinated during this and the preceding one or two years, 14 only were attacked with any of the forms of the prevalent varioloid disease: there was not, however, a single example of genuine small-pox met with, although the epidemic existed in the country.

The lymph employed was very generally taken from the arms of young children; and lymph that had become dry was always avoided.

On comparing the results of re-vaccination during 1836, with those of preceding years, the reporter states that he is led to the conclusion that the disposition or tendency to contract a new cow-pox, (in other words, to be affected by re-vaccination,) and consequently the liability to variola, seem to be increasing every year. Of 42,124 persons re-vaccinated in 1836, the operation succeeded perfectly in more than 18,000; whereas of 48,478 persons re-vaccinated in 1833, only 15,269 were affected; of 44,454 in 1834, only 16,679 were affected; and of 39,192 in 1835, only 15,315 were affected.—*Ibid. from Medicinische Zeitung.*

16. *Results of Re-vaccination in the Prussian Army in 1837.*—The gross number of troops vaccinated in the Prussian army, during the year 1837, was 47,258.

Of these, there bore traces of previous vaccination—evident marks, 37,299; doubtful marks, 6,903; no trace, in 3,056. The vaccination was followed by—regular pock, in 21,308; irregular, in 10,557; and had no effect in 15,393. The latter were again vaccinated—with success, in 2,243; without success, in 9,771.

Of the whole number vaccinated or re-vaccinated with effect, there were, attacked, during the course of the year 1837, with varicella, 14; with varioloid, 7; with true small-pox none.